

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ An HF-generator for high frequency (HF) surgery with a neutral electrode, the electrode comprising at least one electrically conductive section, for contacting a portion of a patient's body and comprising a temperature independent circulation-promoting means adapted to enhance blood flow, without regard to ~~[[the]]~~ a temperature of the neutral electrode, at least through the portion of the patient's body in contact with said at least one electrically conductive section.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one electrically conductive section is coated with a conductive gel to improve the contact between said section and said portion of the patient's body.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprises a substance that contains a circulation-promoting agent.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 3, wherein said at least one conductive section is coated with said substance that contains said circulation-promoting agent.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 2, wherein said gel incorporates a substance that contains a circulation-promoting agent.
6. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 1, wherein a carrier material adapted to hold said conductive section incorporates a substance that contains a circulation-promoting agent.

7. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprise elements that supply a stimulus current.

8. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 7, comprising a plurality of said electrically conductive sections and wherein said elements that supply said stimulus current are disposed such that said stimulus current flows between at least two of said sections within the neutral electrode.

9. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 7, wherein said elements that supply the stimulus current comprise separate electrical connector devices for connection to a current source.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprises elements that are heated by a direct supply of energy.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An HF-generator for use in high frequency (HF) surgery with ~~[[A]] a neutral electrode, the electrode for use in high frequency (HF) surgery,~~ comprising:

at least one electrically conductive section for contacting a patient's body, wherein the at least one electrically conductive section is coated with a gel containing a circulation promoting agent as a circulation promoting means adapted to enhance blood flow at least through said body portion in contact with said at least one electrically conductive section to reduce a contact resistance between said conductive section and said body portion.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~neutral-electrode~~ HF-generator according to claim 13, wherein the circulation promoting agent is capsaicin.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Neutral-electrode~~ The HF-generator according to claim 5, wherein the circulation promoting agent is capsaicin.

16. (Currently Amended) An HF-generator with a neutral electrode for use in high frequency (HF) surgery, the electrode comprising:

at least one electrically conductive section for contacting a patient's body, wherein said section is coated with a conductive gel to improve the contact between said section and said portion of the patient's body and wherein said gel incorporates a substance that contains a circulation promoting agent as a circulation promoting means adapted to enhance blood flow at least though said body portion in contact with said at least one electrically conductive section.

17. (Currently Amended) An HF-generator with a neutral ~~Neutral~~ electrode for high frequency (HF) surgery, the electrode comprising at least one electrically conductive section for contacting a portion of a patient's body and comprising a circulation-promoting means adapted to enhance blood flow, without regard to ~~[[the]]~~ a temperature of the neutral electrode, at least through the portion of the patient's body in contact with said at least one electrically conductive section, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprises a substance that contains a circulation-promoting agent.